



# IMPACT:

Partnership Parenting

*Leader's Guide*  
*November 2009*



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## IMPACT: Partnership Parenting

In 2009, The Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) began a purposeful journey of implementing a Family Centered Practice Model (FCPM) to guide its service to children and families. A key component of the FCPM is Partnership Parenting. Partnership Parenting creates shared-parenting relationships between birth parents and foster parents, who mentor the birth parents and help them learn by setting a positive parenting example. In order to fully explain and teach Partnership Planning techniques, DFCS created IMPACT: Partnership Parenting. IMPACT: Partnership Parenting supports the development of families in the values of family-centered practice as well as the tenants of the shared parenting model.

**DFCS originally implemented IMPACT in 2004.** Its overall purpose is to prepare foster and adoptive families for the joys and challenges of parenting children in care. IMPACT is an acronym which stands for Initial Interest, Mutual Selection, Pre-Service Training, Assessment, Continuing Development and Teamwork.

**Impact:** Partnership Parenting consists of a three-tiered training program that includes pre-service curriculum, required in-service curriculum for the first year of service, and training recommendations for years two through five of service.

**Impact:** Partnership Parenting is composed of ten (10) modules which are to be completed within a four week time frame. The IMPACT modules are: Connections, Partnership Parenting, Children's Well-Being, Grief, Loss and Attachment, Sexual Development and the Impact of Sexual Abuse, Discipline, Permanency Planning, Forever Families, Planning for Change and the Wrap-Up/Panel.

For more information on IMPACT and to access materials, please visit:

<http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/impact>

or

[www.gapartnershipparents.org](http://www.gapartnershipparents.org)

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## IMPACT: Partnership Parenting Acknowledgements

The Resource Development Innovations Project team was convened in November 2008. The goal of the Resource Development Innovations (RDI) project was to build a family centered values-based resource parent development program, which resulted in improved quality and increased quantity of foster families.

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Evangel Wicks, Gwinnett County DFCS  
Dianne Yearby, DFCS, Acting Social Services Director

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## IMPACT: Partnership Parenting Table of Content

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Module 1 ..... Connections: Introduction to IMPACT

Module 2 ..... Partnership Parenting

Module 3 ..... Children's Well-Being

Module 4 ..... Sexual Development and the Impact of Sexual Abuse

Module 5 ..... Grief, Loss and Attachment

Module 6 ..... Discipline: Responding to Children's Behavior

Module 7 ..... Permanency Planning: Reasons, Seasons and Lifetimes

Module 8 ..... Forever Families

Module 9 ..... Planning for Change

Module 10 ..... The Wrap Up  
Up Close and Personal: Sharing the Experience

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## Connections: IMPACT: Partnership Parenting

### Overview:

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Prospective parents begin to develop relationships with other participants as they establish guidelines for group participation. They are introduced to the DFCS Family Centered Practice Model. They develop understanding of the importance of maintaining connections for a child in care.

### Learning Objectives:

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After completion of this module, participants will:

- Become better acquainted with their fellow participants.
- Develop understanding of "joining."
- Become familiar with core values of the DFCS Family Centered Practice Model.
- Be able to identify at least three key reasons that support children in care maintaining connection with their birth family

### Content:

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- Welcome to IMPACT: PARTNERSHIP PARENTING Pre-service Training
- Family Centered Practice
- Joining: My Family Map
- Benefits of Connections

### Materials:

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- Description of IMPACT: PARTNERSHIP PARENTING Modules handout
- Joining handout
- PowerPoint Slides
- Name Tents
- Legal size card stock
- Markers, paper, pencils, pens
- Music
- Small bouquet of flowers with petals in a vase
- Post-It notes
- Training Sign-in Sheet